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Rural District of St. Faith's
and Aylsham

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector

(H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)

1951

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts:*

H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. R. FRYER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

R. COLENSO, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (TO 6.5.51).

G. W. SANGER, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (TO 31.10.51).

B. J. PALMER, A.R.SAN.I. (FROM 18.7.51).

Chief Clerk:

R. J. MITTON, F.N.I.C.S., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Clerical Staff:

MISS K. SCOTT (TO 10.3.51).

MISS M. GOOCH.

MISS P. RAY (FROM 27.3.51).

M. C. DUFFIELD.

G. HOBSON, CERT.S.I.B. (TO 20.10.51).

Assistant Surveyor:

F. B. ALVES, A.M.S.E., A.I.A.S.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.),
FOR THE
Rural District of St. Faiths & Aylsham
NORFOLK
for the Year ending 31st Dec., 1951

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The 15th Census of the population of England and Wales was taken on 8th April, 1951. The Preliminary Report published by the Registrar-General shows that on that date the population of this district was 37,623 (18,762 males and 18,861 females) as compared with 25,648 (12,591 males and 13,057 females) at the 14th Census in 1931. This increase of 46.7 per cent compares with an average increase of 19.0 per cent for all Norfolk Rural Districts, and a national increase of 4.65 per cent.

The figures for the various parishes in the district have not yet been published, and any analysis of the increase must await my next report. Undoubtedly the large number of houses built between 1931 and 1939 (and the resumption of building since the war) in the fringe parishes of Hellesdon, Catton and Sprowston, is responsible for a large proportion of this increase, whilst residential development on a smaller scale has taken place in Drayton, St. Faiths, Rackheath, Spixworth and Taverham.

From estimates made, it seems likely that the population in the parishes farthest from Norwich has remained more or less unchanged, a continuation of the trend noticeable between 1921 and 1931.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The weather of 1951 was such that none wishes it to be repeated. It would be generous to describe it as "cold and wet."

Following one of the coldest Decembers in living memory, the first three months were very wet and cold. The rainfall was $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches compared with a seasonal average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. April rainfall was 2.88 inches, and the first four months were the wettest for 26 years. The average temperature throughout April was 43.6° and the cool weather continued into the summer.

July was the best month in the year, being warm and dry, and there was a short spell of sun in early September. The autumn was cool and wet and the early winter was cold.

The total annual rainfall was 29.46 inches, compared with the average of 24.93.

Altogether 1951 was a year which saw the English climate at its worst.

VITAL STATISTICS

There were 513 live births and 434 deaths registered during 1951. This was 72 less live births and 52 more deaths than in 1950.

The birth rate (13.9) has gone down from 15.9 in 1950, and though following the national trend has declined to below the figure for the whole country (15.5). The crude death rate (11.5) has risen since last year (10.1) almost exactly following the rise in the national rate (12.5) though still below it.

Comparability factors, supplied by the Registrar-General, give an adjusted birth rate of 14.46 and a death rate of 10.69.

There were 16 deaths of infants under one year compared with 18 in 1950, an infant mortality rate of 31.19, slightly above both 1950 (30.70) and the national rate for 1951 (29.6). All but six of these infants died in the first month of life and all but three in the first three months. The causes of 5 infant deaths were inevitable, i.e. due to prematurity (3) or congenital defects (2). None was due to obstetrical injury, while 11 deaths could be described as wholly preventable, being caused by infection (10) and accident (1).

These preventable deaths are much to be regretted and suggest that not enough attention is paid to the protection of young infants from the infections of older persons. The newborn child is particularly vulnerable and should not be in close contact with any but the family circle. A cold in the head in a school child may cause a fatal pneumonia in a tiny baby, and even near relations should learn to keep their distance when suffering from an illness likely to be infectious.

The first three months of 1951 saw a large increase in the monthly death rate, 179 deaths occurring before the end of March. January had the heaviest death roll (76) and February was nearly as bad (67). The majority of these deaths were in those over 65 (132), and 62 of them were due to respiratory causes.

A widespread influenza epidemic and the exceptionally severe weather were the main causes of this heavy mortality. For the rest of the year monthly deaths averaged from 20 to 30.

Infectious diseases accounted for 41 deaths, viz. influenza (19), pneumonia (17), poliomyelitis (2), pulmonary tuberculosis (2), other infec-

tions (1). There were no deaths from whooping cough or measles or any of the other common epidemic diseases of childhood.

The commonest causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation (213), and malignant disease (including cancer) 58 (compared with 48 in 1950). There were four deaths from cancer of the lung, one less than last year. Roughly, one death in three was caused by coronary disease of the heart.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 477 cases of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) notified during the year, 21 were admitted to hospital and there were 19 deaths, 17 due to pneumonia and 2 to poliomyelitis.

This is a much lower incidence than last year, mainly due to less measles (166) and whooping cough (163). Actually there has been an increased incidence of other notifiable diseases, 147 in 1951 as compared with 115 in 1950.

This increase was accounted for by increases in pneumonia (42), jaundice (23) and dysentery (18).

Scarlet Fever.

There were 39 cases of scarlet fever, mostly schoolchildren between 5 and 10. One case was admitted to hospital but no deaths or complications were reported.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Though there was a much smaller incidence, over 100 cases of whooping cough and 60 cases of measles occurred under the age of 5, so it is gratifying to report that there were no deaths from either disease.

Diphtheria.

Again I am glad to report a whole year free from a case of diphtheria. The success of the policy of universal child immunisation is demonstrated by this gratifying result. It is to be hoped that absence of the disease will not lead to any slackening on the part of authorities arranging schemes or parents taking part in them. Any such neglect would soon see this deadly disease creeping back into frightening prominence.

Poliomyelitis.

There were 7 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year with 2 deaths, compared with 16 cases in 1950. One of the fatal cases was of long-standing and had had her acute attack in 1950, was transferred to a long-stay hospital for orthopædic treatment and died there of sudden pulmonary collapse. The other fatal case was a boy of 6 who had a very severe attack in June and died in a week after treatment in a respirator.

In April there was a small group of cases associated with Coltishall and Spixworth. It began with a boy at Spixworth who was treated in a general hospital and in whom the diagnosis was not made for some weeks. The next case was a girl of 19 at Coltishall, who had a severe attack and was still under treatment for extensive paralysis at the end of the year. The third case was a schoolchild of 11, a class contact of the sister of the first case and the fourth was a child of 2 who also had family contacts at school. The schoolchild had a mild attack and made a complete recovery, while the youngest patient was left with some paralysis of face and leg.

It would appear that this group of cases were connected through the school, though only one schoolchild contracted the disease in a recognisable form.

The other cases were 2 service men, probably infected outside the district. Both were non-paralytic.

Summing up, poliomyelitis in 1951 killed 2 patients, caused severe paralysis in one case and slight disability in another.

Infective Hepatitis.

This disease was more prevalent in 1951, 23 cases being notified. Three cases were treated in hospital and there was one death from liver complications.

Enteric Group.

No case of typhoid or paratyphoid was notified during the year.

Dysentery.

Eighteen cases of dysentery occurred, half of them of the Flexner and the other half of the Sonné type.

The Flexner cases occurred in 2 groups, 6 of them associated with the children's ward of an institution in the district, and a family of 3 in another parish whose source of infection was never traced, but may have been from contact with another institution where this type of the disease has been prevalent.

The 9 cases of Sonne dysentery were in the fringe parishes and probably part of the large outbreak in the City about that time.

Food Poisoning.

Five cases of food poisoning were notified during the year—three of these occurred in one household, and the organism was never identified. The other 2 were due to *Salmonella Typhimurium*, but no foodstuff could be found to be responsible for the illness.

All made uneventful recoveries. The only matter for comment is the tendency for children to have a prolonged convalescent carrier stage. It is sometimes a matter of months before three negative specimens can be obtained from them in cases infected with *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 2 deaths in 1951 and 33 new cases were notified; 14 cases of the non-pulmonary type were notified and there were no deaths from this cause.

The county statistics for tuberculosis from the report of the County Medical Officer are given below and compared with the District Rates (per 1,000 population):

<i>Incidence</i>			<i>Non-</i>		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	
County of Norfolk ...	226	0.60	93	0.25	
St. Faith's & Aylsham ...	33	0.88	14	0.37	
<i>Mortality</i>			<i>Non-</i>		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	
County of Norfolk ...	56	0.15	9	0.02	
St. Faith's & Aylsham ...	2	0.05	—	—	
England & Wales (all forms) ...	—	0.31	—	—	

It will be seen that the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is considerably less. Only 33 cases being diagnosed in 1951 as against 45 in 1950. As there were 225 cases on the register at the end of the year, an increase of 5 since 1950 and 2 deaths, some 44 cases have either recovered or removed to other districts.

The most remarkable figure is that for mortality. It is very satisfactory to report that only 2 deaths were caused by tuberculosis in 12 months, and both were elderly men over 55, one notified in 1937 and the other one month before death.

This district appears to have had a very encouraging year from the point of view of tuberculosis. Although the incidence for the district is still slightly higher than that for the county, the mortality rate is well below both county and national rates.

This would seem to suggest that diagnosis and treatment are both very efficient; that the public is taking increasing advantage of the facilities for mass radiography; and that more cases are in fact being treated at an early curable stage.

There is a large drop in the figures for male pulmonary cases, which are now less than the female, the female numbers being only decreased by 2. The tendency for the young woman and the elderly man to have a greater incidence of the disease is still evident.

Non-pulmonary disease is decreasing still further, and this type now represents only just over a third of the total. There is no doubt that the increasing proportion of milk being pasteurised before sale is partly responsible for this decrease. The majority of the new cases were infections of the neck glands in children, only 3 adults being notified, 1 with abdominal disease, 1 with bone disease, and 1 with infected glands of neck.

In every case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, the milk supply is investigated, and the human contacts are offered examination at the chest clinic. I am glad to report that refusal to attend for examination is now rare, showing that the general public is becoming much more aware of the value of investigation and early diagnosis.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that a certain proportion of contacts of a certified case do refuse to attend for examination, as do a much too large proportion of workers when the mass miniature radiography unit visits their factory or place of work. The motives behind these refusals are hard to assess, but must be largely due to fear and an unwillingness to face the issue if they should be found to be infected. Older men with heavy family responsibilities are specially liable to default on this account, and better financial provision where the worker has to stop work for treatment would go a long way towards altering this attitude.

The possibility of tuberculosis in elderly people with a chronic cough is still insufficiently appreciated even by general practitioners. The chronic bronchitic, so-called, if not known to be infectious, may be a serious source of danger to susceptible young contacts. It is important that such cases should be diagnosed so that adequate precautions may be taken against spread of infection even if no treatment can make any difference to the disease process in the sufferer.

The mass miniature radiography unit could be used with advantage to survey the chests of the elderly, particularly those with chronic coughs.

<i>Diagnosis.</i>	<i>Total</i>				
Total number of sputum examinations	225
Cases already notified	61
No. positive 20					
No. negative 41					
Cases not on T.B. Register	164
No. positive 6					
No. negative 158					

This is an increase of 15 in the number of examinations since last year.

Treatment.

It is encouraging to report that the number of admissions to sanatoria has again risen:

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1947	...	...	3	2	5
1948	...	...	3	3	6
1949	...	...	6	4	10
1950	...	...	9	9	18
1951	...	...	14	16	30

More beds are becoming available, and the new methods of treatment are reducing the length of time necessary for the patient to remain in hospital.

B.C.G. Vaccination is being offered to all suitable susceptible contacts of a known case, and is being increasingly accepted by parents and young adults.

General Remarks.

Considerable progress has been made in the campaign against tuberculosis throughout the country, and this district has not been behind in this advance.

Stress, both mental and physical, is a major factor in this disease, and the specially dangerous ages are still 15—30 in women and 40—55 in men.

Any social or financial measures, or equally, any change of personal habit, which will reduce stress at these critical ages will help to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis.

The deliberate choice of a healthy way of life is one of the individual's best protections against this disease.

INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS

SICKNESS RETURNS—MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE

The weekly returns of the Ministry of National Insurance were made available through the County Medical Officer during the first three months of the year.

These showed a phenomenal rise from a weekly average of 80 in the first week to 404 in the third week of January. The figures gradually fell, but on March 6th were still 152. It was not until April that the normal average for the season was reported.

This large rise in sickness in the population coincided with the severe weather and the increased notification of influenza and pneumonia, and the rise in the death rate amongst the elderly.

These returns are a valuable means of keeping in touch with the general health of the population. Unfortunately they are no longer being made available to this Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-48

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Action taken under the above regulations is summarised in the following table:

		<i>Brucella</i>	<i>Anthrax</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>Others</i>
No. of restriction Notices imposed in 1951.	<i>Total</i> 6.	3	1	2	—
No. still operative at beginning of 1951.	<i>Total</i> 1.	—	—	—	1
No. withdrawn during the year.	<i>Total</i> 5.	2	1	1	1

No. of cases of voluntary pasteurisation.	<i>Total</i>	4.	3	—	1	—
No. of Notices still operative Dec. 31st, 1951.	<i>Total</i>	2.	1	—	1	—
No. of cases of Voluntary Pasteurisation where sampling incomplete 31.12.51.	<i>Total</i>	3.	3	—	—	—

The only comment I wish to make on the above is with reference to tuberculosis. It will be seen that three dairy herds have had unsuspected infected animals whose milk was being regularly retailed in a raw state. This constitutes a grave threat to consumers, particularly young children. It is to be hoped that measures already taken in certain selected areas of the country will soon become universally operative and tuberculosis be finally eradicated from our dairy cattle. Compulsory and efficient pasteurisation of all milk is the only real safeguard against milk-borne disease.

HOUSING

<i>Waiting List</i>					1951	1950
Applicants at 31st December ...	...	...	...	...	1,156	1,472
<i>Analysis of Waiting List</i>						
Size of Families with 2 or less children	...	...	...	...	1,035	1,300
Family Families with 3 or more children	...	...	...	...	121	172
Type of Agricultural workers	...	...	...	...	202	263
Family Others	...	...	...	...	954	1,209
<i>Local Authority Houses</i>						
Position at 31st December:						
Pre-war ...	...	...	...	...	565	565
Post-war	...	...	...	...	684	538
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					Total ...	1,249
						1,103
<i>Total Houses Complete by Local Authority During the Year</i> ...						
					146	142
<i>Ex-Government Camps:</i>						
No. of Families occupying these Camps at 31st December	...	...	...	...	159	202
Total number of applicants housed in Camps from waiting list during the year	...	...	...	...	23	39

It will be seen that there were 316 fewer applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year in 1951 compared with 1950, and that 143 new houses were completed during the year. Thus it would appear that the leeway between supply and demand is beginning to be made up.

It is specially gratifying to note that the abolition of hutments as living accommodation, begun last year, has gone on steadily in 1951. Forty-three of

these dwellings have now ceased to be used, and in most cases pulled down. These war-time erections were never intended for prolonged occupation by families, and it is to be hoped that my next Annual Report will show still more rapid progress towards their destruction.

The proportion of larger to smaller family units is now nearly 1.10, and agricultural workers to other applicants less than 1.5 smaller in each case than last year.

The housing survey, given in detail in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, shows the continued occupation of a large number of Grade V houses, i.e. those classed as "Unfit for habitation," also the increasing dilapidation of old property whose low rents do not encourage the owners to repair them.

At present, the only serious effort to ease the general housing situation is the building of new Council Houses, but it is to be questioned whether the time has not come to consider other aspects of the problem. Far more encouragement and assistance is needed for the owners of property suitable for conversion and reconditioning specially for the owner-occupier.

The ratio of families who are Council tenants to others grows every year. Approximately 1 in 9 families live in Council Houses. Is it wholly wise to allow the proportion to increase? Or is the owner-occupier to be encouraged in his own interests?

Surveys of sickness, mental and physical, both show much stress and discontent, and it may be that, to some people, one of life's deeper satisfactions is to own one's own home.

WATER SUPPLY

Some progress was made in the provision of a main water supply during the year.

Work on the Salle bore, begun in 1950, was unfortunately held up owing to technical difficulties on the site, but it was hoped that 1952 would see work re-started.

The laying of water mains in Foulsham and Reepham was completed during the year, and the carrying out of the Scheme for Great Witchingham was commenced.

SEWERAGE

Aylsham Sewerage scheme was begun, and very good progress has been made by the end of the year.

No work was started on the urgent schemes for Reepham or the fringe parishes of Sprowston, Catton and Hellesdon.

SOCIAL HEALTH

The most outstanding social activity has been the ever-increasing success of Old People's Clubs. Gradually the district is being covered by these happy groups of elderly people meeting weekly or fortnightly to enjoy themselves.

By the end of the year, thriving clubs were established at:

Aylsham	St. Faiths	Sprowston
Cawston	Drayton	Hellesdon
Reepham	Old Catton	Wroxham

All the clubs are affiliated to the Norfolk Old People's Welfare Committee, and many of the club committees also act as Welfare Committees for the old people in the parish, rendering services outside the actual running of the club.

In a rather austere and utilitarian world it is a relief to meet a movement which has enjoyment as its sole object.

A short visit to any of these clubs will show how successfully this object has been obtained.

Already plans are being made for new clubs at Marsham, Horsford, Coltishall and Salhouse, and it is hoped that soon no parish of any size will be without this amenity.

GENERAL SURVEY

The health of the district, apart from the influenza epidemic common to the rest of the country, has been satisfactory during the year.

The birth rate has declined rather steeply and the death rate has risen slightly, but both have followed the national trend.

The infant mortality rate has risen a little but, considering the widespread respiratory infection in the first quarter, it has remained at a remarkably low figure.

The greatest ground for satisfaction has been the low mortality from tuberculosis and the decreased incidence of the disease.

Housing is still the major public health problem, and the time now seems ripe for a wider approach to it.

Water and sewerage schemes make slow but steady progress.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their never failing support, and to the Council's staff for their continued loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	93,005
Population (Census 1931)	25,648
Population (Census 1951)	37,623
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931)	7,660
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1951)	10,945
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1951	£152,397
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate	£603

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfer as furnished by the Registrar General:

	Total	Males	Females	St. Faith's & Aylsham	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS				1951	1950
Legitimate	485	248	237	Birth rate per	
Illegitimate	28	17	11	1,000 of esti-	
Total	513	265	248	mated resident	
				population ... 13.9	15.9
					15.5

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	10	7	3	Rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	of estimated	
Total	10	7	3	resident popula-	
				tion 0.26	0.32
					0.36

DEATHS

Total	... 434	231	203	Crude death rate	
				per 1,000 of the	
				estimated resident	
				population ... 11.5	10.1
					12.5

Deaths from puerperal causes—0.

INFANT DEATHS

			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	15	8
Illegitimate	1	1
Totals	16	9
					7

			St. Faith's & Aylsham	England & Wales
Infant Mortality	Rate	per 1,000 live	1951	1950
births	31.19	30.70
				29.6

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

<i>Ages</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1st day	...	1	2	3
1-7 days	...	3	—	3
1-4 weeks	...	2	2	4
1-3 months	...	2	1	3
3-6 months	...	—	1	1
6-9 months	...	1	—	1
9-12 months	...	—	1	1
		—	—	—
		9	7	16
		—	—	—

Causes of Death (Infants under 1 year)

Males Females Total

Total—5

Inevitable

Prematurity	...	1	2	3
Congenital Defects	...	1	1	2
Total—Nil	Obstetrical Injury	—	—	—

Total—11

Preventable

Infectious	...	7	3	10
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Preventable

Accidental	...	—	1	1
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The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General:

Causes of Death

Males Females Total

1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	2	—	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	2	—	2
4	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	2
8	Measles	...	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	1	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	3	3	6
11	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus	...	3	1	4
12	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	—	2	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	—	4	4
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	...	24	18	42
15	Leukaemia Aleukaemia	...	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	3	4	7
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	30	25	55
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	26	25	51
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	1	6	7

20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	38	37	75
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	15	10	25
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	11	8	19
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	9	17
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	13	24
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease	...	...	...	...	25	28	53
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
34	All Other Accidents	10	5	15
35	Suicide	2	—	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
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All Causes		231	203	434
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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables: the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital Deaths		Notification Rate per 1,000 Population	
		St. Faith's	England & Wales	1951	1951
Scarlet Fever	...	39	1	—	1.04
Whooping Cough	...	163	3	—	4.34
Measles	...	166	1	—	4.42
Poliomyelitis	...	7	7	2	0.18
Pneumonia	...	42	3	17	1.12
Dysentery	...	18	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	7	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	...	23	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	3	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	2	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	5	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	...	1	—	—	—
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	477	21	19		
<hr/>					

Disease	Ages												Total		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65		
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	1	3	22	4	5	2	1	1	-	39	
Whooping Cough	...	15	19	18	26	20	64	1	-	-	-	-	-	163	
Measles	...	4	4	14	13	24	97	3	2	3	2	-	-	166	
Poliomyelitis	...	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	7	
Pneumonia	...	-	1	-	-	2	4	2	5	3	8	5	6	42	
Dysentery	...	1	2	-	-	2	7	1	3	-	2	-	-	18	
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	7	
Infective Jaundice	..	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	8	4	2	-	2	23	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorium	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Food Poisoning	...	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	5	
Meningococcal															
Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Malaria	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	...	22	26	33	40	54	199	16	28	14	19	7	8	11	477

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1951 are given in the following tables:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
5—	...	1	5	2	4	—	—	—
15—	...	4	4	—	3	—	—	—
25—	...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
55—	...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
65—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
upwards	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
	16	17	4	10	2	—	—	—

Type of Case		Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	...	...	...	165
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	60
Totals	...	112	113	225

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR 1951

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year 1951:

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	798
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	227
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,716
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	145
Inspections and revisits of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	86
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	143
Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	...	49
Inspections re Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	1,517
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	44
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	282
Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	250
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	...	...	...	...	491
Inspections of Sewerage and Water Supply Works operating and under construction	...	...	...	...	543
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	113
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	38
Other visits interviewing owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	328
Inspections under Building Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	1,418
Inspections in connection with the issue of Building Licences	...	...	...	...	38
Total	...	...	...	...	8,241

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—

The following are the particulars of the work carried out in connection with Meat and Food Inspection during the year.

The number of carcases inspected at the Slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food were as follows:

Beef	...	...	...	...	2,190
Pork	...	...	...	...	2,905
Mutton	...	...	...	...	1,990
Veal	...	...	...	...	1,051
Total	...	...	...	...	8,136

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis:

BEEF—

31 Carcasses and all Offal (15)	107 Mesenteries (32)
20 Forequarters (9)	7 Spleens (6)
15 Hindquarters (9)	7 Hearts (1)
1,232 lbs. Beef (191)	6 Kidneys
184 Heads (126)	3 Tripes (1)
139 Tongues (56)	1 Diaphragm (1)
381 Livers (37)	18 Gallons Blood
434 Parts Livers	1 Set Udders (1)
267 Sets Lungs (151)	2 Sets Ribs
	7 Complete sets Offal

PORK—

44 Carcasses and all Offal (5)	110 Plucks (21)
302 lbs. Pork	12 Kidneys
54 Heads (44)	5 Spleens
7 Sets Lungs (4)	4 Hindquarters (2)
42 Livers	8 Short Forequarters
30 Mesenteries (4)	9 Hindlegs (1)
28 Tongues (15)	4 Complete sets Offal
2 Sets Intestines	

MUTTON—

8 Whole Carcasses and all Offal	3 Forequarters
2 Heads	36 lbs. Mutton
2 Hindquarters	1 Tongue
54 Livers	1 Part Liver
7 Plucks	

VEAL—

9 Whole Carcasses and all Offal	15 Livers
44 lbs. Veal	4 Kidneys
8 Plucks (1)	1 Set Intestines
2 Forequarters (2)	

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

440 Tins of Meat and Fish	329 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Bacon
445 Tins Milk	18 lbs. Ham
109 Tins Vegetables, etc.	326 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Cheese
447 Tins Fruit	2,304 English Eggs
116 Jars Fruit	3,919 Danish Eggs
220 lbs. Beef	1,860 Australian Eggs
36 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Corned Beef	15 lbs. Egg Malange
65 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Pork	5 lbs. Lard
14 lbs. Sausage Meat	9 lbs. Margarine

115 lbs. Flour	1 Tin Spaghetti
100 lbs. Tea	6 Jars Bovril
6 Tins Syrup	13 Packets Salt
23 Jars Jam	12 7 lb. Packets Lump Salt
18 Jars Marmalade	1 Bottle Vinegar
13 Jars Honey	4 Tins Fish Paste
2 Jars Peanut Butter	4 Bottles Orange Squash
26 Jars Mincemeat	1 Jar Horlicks
93 lbs. Biscuits	2 Tins Bourn Vita
2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Fruit Cake	68 x 500 Grams Cherries
89 Packets Cake Mixture	14 Packets Cornflakes
1 Tin Custard Powder	18 Packets Weetabix
5 Tin Puddings	1 Packet Rusks
23 Bottles Coffee	1 Packet Puffed Wheat
85 lbs. Rice	15 Packets Oats
37 Tins Soup	1 lb. Macaroni
1 Tin Apple Sauce	1 28 lb. Box Turkish Figs
78 Bottles Sauce	3 Barrels Pigs Feet
10 Jars Pickles	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Luncheon Meat.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING—

During the year 15 samples of Ice-Cream were taken for examination by the methylene blue test with the following results:

- 6 were placed in Grade I.
- 8 were placed in Grade II.
- 1 was placed in Grade IV.

The grades are those defined by Regulations, Grades I and II being regarded as satisfactory and Grades III and IV as unsatisfactory.

SCAVENGING

The scavenging service covers the whole district both for the collection of house refuse and Night Soil, and the service continued to operate satisfactorily and very few complaints were received.

House refuse is collected weekly in 31 of the 48 parishes in the district and fortnightly in the 17 smaller parishes.

Night Soil is collected weekly in all parishes, but from the houses with larger families in the parishes of Aylsham, Reepham and Great Witchingham it is collected twice weekly. A small number of very isolated houses do not receive the service as it would be impossible to include them at an economic cost, and such properties have adequate ground space for disposal without danger to public health.

All the work was carried out by direct labour, except in the parish of Foulsham, where the work was carried out by a Contractor. For scavenging 11 motor vehicles were in use, including 2 normally held in reserve, and in addition one horse-drawn vehicle was used, and 29 men were employed.

For cesspool emptying 4 vehicles were used, and 5 men were employed. An additional vehicle was purchased and put into service during the year. As an indication of the increase in demand for this service, 7,213 loads were removed from cesspools during 1951, compared with 1,198 loads in 1945.

SALVAGE

There was an increased demand for waste paper during the year. During the year a total of 84 tons of salvaged materials were sold for the sum of £927 13s. 9d.

The following is a list of the principal materials:

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Aluminium	3 0 18	8	17	0
Brass	3 2 11	11	13	10
Copper	2 24	4	2	2
Lead	1 6	1	14	0
Woollens	3 22	4	14	7
Bedsteads	1 13	0 0	3	10	0
Bagging	5 3	8	3	19	9
Pewter	8		16	0
Zinc	14		3	6
Heavy Iron	2 10	0 0	10	14	0
Light Iron	10 2	0 0		15	9
Motor Covers	12 0	0 0	4	4	0
Rags	3 13	6 4	110	5	3
Baled Tins	11 8	0 0	22	14	2
Waste Paper	63 5	2 0	709	12	6
	84	7	1	3	£897	16	6
Jars and Bottles: 77 Gross 4 Dozen.					29	17	3
					£927	13	9

WATER SUPPLIES

The level of water in the wells was generally higher than it had been for the previous two years, and the supply of water was adequate throughout the year.

On the Council's application a Magistrates' Order was obtained for the closing of a small privately owned water supply, where reports on the examination of bacteriological samples disclosed serious contamination, and the owner temporarily provided an alternative supply.

The laying of water mains in the parishes of Foulsham and Themelthorpe was completed, and a larger pump was installed in the bore-well, which has a capacity adequate to meet the potential increased demand.

In connection with the scheme for supplying Lenwade in the parish of Great Witchingham, the mains were laid, and but for the delayed delivery of the overhead storage tank the supply would have been in operation at the end of the year.

The Council decided to proceed with extending the mains from its Housing Estate in Weston Longville in order to provide a supply to the small main centre of population in the parish, and tenders for the carrying out of the work were invited.

In the parishes of Blickling and Oulton work was carried out to permit the rising main between the bore-well and overhead storage tank being also used as a supply main.

In Aylsham the Council laid a service pipe from the Norwich Corporation's mains in order to afford a supply of water to a group of eight houses.

In connection with the bore-well at Salle, which is intended to provide the main source of supply for the western half of the rural district, it was found necessary to carry out further exploratory works, and this was authorised by the Council.

In Horsford two extensions were made to the Norwich Corporation mains which would provide a supply to a further ten properties.

A water supply scheme consisting of sinking a bore-well and laying water mains was completed at the Council's new Housing Estate in the parish of Guestwick.

Progress in carrying out proposals in connection with water supplies is to a great degree handicapped by the long delivery period for pipes, but it is hoped it will be possible to continue steadily to carry out the Council's programme.

SEWERAGE

The work of providing new sewers in the town of Aylsham was commenced during August, and steady progress was made to the end of the year.

Tenders were invited for the work of providing sewers in Reepham, but authority to proceed has not yet been received from the Ministry.

Small sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Council House Estates were completed in the parishes of Guestwick, Hainford, Hellesdon, St. Faiths, Sprowston, Taverham, Weston Longville and Wroxham.

HOUSING SURVEY

Rural District Councils throughout the country were requested to carry out a survey of the existing housing conditions and to classify houses into certain defined categories. The survey for this district was completed on the lines suggested during the year.

At the end of the year 1951 the dwelling accommodation in the district consisted of the following:

Number of Houses:		
(a) Owned by Council ...	1,249	
(b) In Private Ownership ...	9,896	
	—	11,145
Number of Ex-Service Huts:		
(a) Controlled by Council ...	172	
(b) Privately Controlled ...	44	
	—	196
Number of Caravans:		45
		—
Total ...	11,386	

The Classification of the Houses into the prescribed categories is as follows:

Category	Number	Percentage of Total
I.—Houses suitable in all respects for habitation ...	7,255	65.1%
II.—Houses with minor defects	504	4.5%
III.—Houses needing repairs, structural alterations and improvements	1,839	16.5%
IV.—Houses suitable for reconditioning under “Housing Rural Workers Acts” ...	710	6.4%
V.—Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	837	7.5%
		—
Total	11,145	

It will be appreciated that the survey has demanded a considerable amount of work over a long period. While it is desirable to have a full record of each house which includes measurements of all rooms, window areas and details of disrepair, the preparation of such a record would require an even longer period, whereas it is apparent that the aim of the survey is to make available information to permit the estimation of immediate and future needs of new housing accommodation. The condition of houses would vary in detail after a period and would need a re-inspection for up-to-date information at a time when any action could be taken. The survey fulfils the requirement of readily available information as to housing conditions which can be kept up to date. Survey sheets have been prepared recording particulars of situation, ownership, construction and sanitary condition. In each parish the survey sheets have been serially numbered and sketch maps prepared so that each house can be readily identified, and particular care has been exercised in this respect. If it proves possible to formulate a “slum clearance” programme, the houses which should be included are already identified and their number known, and similar information is available in respect of houses which could continue to provide reasonable accommodation if repaired and improved.

The collected information has been summarised for each parish, and apart from meeting the requirements of the survey provides a valuable record which not only proves of very material assistance in the work of this department, but will also enable information under many headings to be extracted and made available at comparatively short notice.

At the end of this report is a tabulated summary giving general particulars of housing conditions in each parish.

In considering the results of the survey, regard needs to be made of the fact that the district varies greatly in character, the variation ranging from the intensive development adjoining the boundary with Norwich to the very sparsely inhabited rural area.

During the years between the two wars a considerable number of houses were built in the district and a large proportion of them are owner-occupied and are well maintained and comply with modern standards.

Of the 837 houses placed in Category V, 54 have already been dealt with by the Council and either Demolition Orders have been made or Undertakings not to re-let have been given by the respective owners. Remembering the comprehensive "slum clearance" programme undertaken by the Council in the years before the last war, it may cause some surprise that there should be as many as 837 unfit houses. However, the end of the last year was twelve years after the outbreak of the last war, and during this period very little repair work has been carried out and in the circumstances the deterioration of these poorer types of houses can be understood. Their rentals generally are low, and, with present-day costs, a year's rent, at least, is quickly exceeded when only a minor repair is carried out. It is disturbing that this steady wastage due to deterioration should have occurred and probably will continue. High costs seriously hinders the securing of adequate repairs. It is possible in the case of a house which is not completely unfit in its present condition but is capable of being repaired, that the repairs cannot be carried out at reasonable cost. In these circumstances, and having regard to existing law, the making of a Demolition Order must be considered. The owner, while not being able to afford the repairs at present, is naturally reluctant to lose the house and gives an Undertaking not to re-let until the repairs are carried out, in the hope that conditions may alter and permit him to fulfil his undertaking. The house then stands empty and in disrepair, which conditions are most favourable for rapid deterioration.

There is another aspect of the housing situation in that many occupiers prefer to continue to live in a sub-standard house at a low rental, as they cannot afford or are unwilling to incur the additional financial commitments that would be involved with a house with modern standards.

The survey discloses interesting information under various headings. For instance, the Council owns 11.2% of the total houses in the district. Also in the eight parishes where there are the greatest number of Category V houses totalling 384 the Council has already built 422 houses.

In connection with water supplies, the survey shows that a piped water supply was available at the end of the year to 7,174 houses, or 64.37% of the total in the district. In Foulsham and Themelthorpe a supply became available only just before the end of the year, and if these parishes are excluded then 88.8% of the houses where a mains supply is available are already taking a supply.

The following particulars are also of interest. In the parishes of Catton, Hellesdon and Sprowston, where a piped supply of water has been available for a considerable number of years, only 9 houses are not connected out of the total of 3,752 that the mains can supply. These figures considerably affect those in the preceding paragraph.

For some parishes where mains were laid a short time before the war, the following figures indicate the proportion of possible connections which have been made: Aylsham, 85.2%; Coltishall, 74.8%; Drayton, 71%; and Wroxham, 60%. Similar figures for where mains have been laid since the war are: Horsford, 63.8%; Rackheath, 67.5%; and Salhouse, 61%.

Classified in this manner the figures are comparable and indicate that where a supply becomes available connections can be expected steadily to increase as time passes, although the immediate response may be disappointing. The survey also indicates where reasonable advantage is not being taken of a mains supply.

The survey also discloses that 46.8% of the houses in the district have water closets, compared with 52.7% with pail closets. The remaining 0.5% have privy middens. At the end of the year no proper system of sewerage and sewage disposal existed except at some Council House Estates. Therefore, the major proportion of the 5,197 houses with water closets have cesspool drainage which indicates the need for sewers in many parishes in the district. The provision of sewers in Aylsham has been commenced, but the particularly urgent need in Catton, Hellesdon, Sprowston and Reepham can readily be appreciated.

BUILDING LICENCES

The following is a summary of the work involved in connection with the issue of Building Licences during the year. The Council had still a long list of outstanding applications for Licences for the erection of new houses in addition to the number received during the year as set out below:—

NEW HOUSES:

No. of houses for which application for Building Licences were received	...	...	...	...	96
No. of houses for which Licences were issued	...	...			38
No. of proposed houses for which Licences were not granted	...	...	...	...	58

REPAIR OF HOUSES AND OTHER WORK:

No. of applications received	...	...	...	...	115
No. of applications refused	...	...	...	...	33
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	82

In addition to the above, 32 recommendations were made to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works as to the issue of Licences.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year, 1,517 inspections were made to ascertain if premises were infested by rats, and 491 premises which were found to be infested were suitably treated.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 21 Bakehouses in the district and 28 visits of inspection were made. I am pleased to be able to record it was not necessary to serve any notices in connection with these premises.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

The following is the work carried out in abating nuisances and remedying Housing defects as a result of Informal and Statutory action taken during the year:—

HOUSING:

Source of water supply closed	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Piped water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	7
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	26
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	2
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	5
New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	6
Rainwater guttering provided	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Window frames made to open	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	7

Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced				...	...	...	2
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed and redecorated			...	...	...	...	2

DRAINAGE:

Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	13

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health, for their support, and to each member of the staff for their unfailing co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E.

TUDOR HALL,
ROSE LANE, NORWICH.

September, 1952.

HOUSING SURVEY—SUMMARY

PARISH or PLACE	Total Number of Houses	Category					Water Supply		Sanitary Accommodation				Caravans Cesspool
		1	2	3	4	5	Mains	Wells	Private W.C.	Public W.C.	Middle	Up-to-date	
		Council Houses	—	—	—	—	—	14	20	182	616	6	2
Alderford	14	2	10	3	1	—	14	22	—	—	—	—	—
Attlebridge	36	14	24	2	9	—	543	261	94	4	115	6	6
Aylsham	804	132	473	70	147	61	53	—	—	11	1	1	1
Beeston	16	—	6	23	2	8	—	4	8	40	—	4	4
Belaugh	53	8	—	18	6	6	42	2	5	69	8	1	8
Blickling	74	—	—	20	—	9	14	12	—	55	14	4	14
Booton	55	2	—	23	6	12	17	—	12	46	16	1	12
Brampton	58	—	—	5	—	9	12	9	—	35	4	—	4
Brandiston	35	—	—	5	—	9	12	9	—	35	4	31	—
Burgh	56	—	8	16	20	2	10	—	56	16	10	43	6
Buxton Lamas	258	32	116	11	58	41	32	16	2	252	51	203	4
Catton	260	—	153	37	61	2	7	244	16	16	123	—	137
Cawston	353	36	135	17	126	31	44	29	324	16	62	282	9
Coltishall	369	93	240	8	74	30	17	211	158	71	109	260	—
Croftwick	36	—	5	3	5	15	8	—	36	—	4	32	—
Drayton	283	59	197	—	63	4	19	176	107	72	125	—	125
Felthorpe	126	16	44	13	39	11	19	16	110	—	24	102	—
Foulsham	282	32	79	30	70	47	56	63	219	—	41	240	1
Frettenham	84	22	49	1	23	6	5	18	66	—	30	54	—
Guestwick	46	6	15	14	12	1	4	6	40	—	12	33	1
Hainford	207	26	115	8	47	9	28	29	178	16	70	137	—
Haverland	31	—	5	—	5	14	7	5	26	—	4	27	—
Hellesdon	1778	103	1719	25	24	—	10	1773	5	5	1711	67	—
Hevingham	233	40	116	14	75	5	23	74	159	103	25	199	9
Heydon	61	—	17	4	17	18	5	—	61	—	11	49	1
Hingham	95	8	26	7	26	20	16	8	87	—	26	69	—
Horsford	245	44	124	9	77	3	32	146	99	83	41	204	—
Horstead	207	18	101	27	38	25	16	24	183	6	49	154	4
Marsham	184	33	97	29	41	8	9	72	112	32	36	146	2
Morton-on-the-Hill	35	2	6	3	14	—	12	—	35	—	3	32	—
Oulton	92	4	15	3	27	9	4	88	—	13	75	4	13
Oxnead	17	—	5	—	4	8	—	17	—	5	12	5	—
Rackheath	218	16	173	—	24	19	2	131	87	63	72	146	—
Reepham	500	58	206	38	109	82	65	77	423	—	88	406	6
Ringland	64	6	17	13	19	4	11	—	64	—	2	62	—
St. Faith—Horsham	333	78	174	2	74	12	71	257	76	42	149	184	—
St. Faith—Newton	97	15	49	—	21	1	26	77	20	9	36	61	—
Salhouse	226	40	110	5	66	22	23	114	112	73	36	189	1
Salle	49	—	22	12	4	11	—	49	—	13	36	13	—
Spixworth	276	41	264	4	4	—	4	54	222	—	78	198	—
Sprowston	1720	101	1556	14	117	5	28	1712	8	2	1494	226	—
Stratton-Strawless	85	8	43	9	15	8	10	11	74	—	20	65	—
Swannington	99	12	22	1	42	14	20	9	90	—	18	81	—
Taverham	205	10	169	2	19	1	14	12	193	—	123	82	—
Themelthorpe	26	6	14	1	8	3	—	—	26	5	21	5	—
Tuttington	50	10	15	—	29	2	4	6	44	—	10	40	—
Weston Longville	99	10	30	4	33	20	12	8	91	—	26	73	—
Witchingham Great	153	34	66	18	28	15	26	14	139	—	13	140	—
Witchingham Little	17	2	7	—	8	—	2	—	17	—	3	13	—
Wood Dalling	105	10	27	6	40	1	31	—	105	—	11	94	—
Wroxham	340	60	302	1	12	6	19	143	197	96	138	202	—
TOTALS	11145	1249	7255	504	1839	710	837	6111	5034	769	5197	5889	59
													4764
													45

EX-SERVICE HUTS.

These are situated in the following parishes. All are placed in Category V but are not included in the figures for the district.

Those controlled by Council:—

Blickling
Catton
Foulsham
Rackheath
Sproxton
Taverham

TOTAL 172

† Mains recently completed.

Those under Private control:—

Oulton
Haveringland
Cawston
Sproxton
TOTAL 24

